

Additional biographical information

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws degree, Tulane University, 1949

Master of Laws degree, Tulane University, 1951

POLITICAL

In 1961 I was elected District Attorney of New Orleans. Inasmuch as I was not supported by any political organization, I had no serious expectation of winning. However, the District Attorney's office at that time had fallen on bad times and I wanted to help any one of the candidates who had a chance to improve the office. As it turned out, I received more votes than they did -- and received more votes than the incumbent did -- and that is how I became District Attorney. The best laid plans of mice and men ...

I was re-elected in 1965 in the first primary. Last November I was re-elected again in the first primary.

MILITARY

My service in the field artillery began in 1939 when I joined the National Guard at the age of 17. In 1941 I went on active duty with my outfit and served five years in the Army in World War II.

After becoming a commissioned officer, during World War II, I volunteered for training as a liaison pilot (a designation changed after the war to Army Aviator). I finished my training and received my wings.

In this capacity my customary assignment was to pilot a light plane over the front lines. In the seat behind me was an observer. Just in front of him, replacing the customary second joy stick, was a fifty pound radio for communication to the artillery battalions and groups which we were serving. The

airplanes which we used in Europe were unarmored light planes. I flew in combat in France and Germany and was awarded the Air Medal.

After the war ended I returned to the Louisiana National Guard, still in the Field Artillery. A few years ago, after more than twenty years service in the artillery, I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

I am now a Lieutenant Colonel of field artillery in the inactive reserves.

2700 Tulane Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
June 26, 1970

Mr. Arthur Fields  
G. P. Putnam's Sons  
200 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Fields:

I enjoyed talking with you the other day.

Enclosed is the additional biographical material we discussed.

One thing concerns me. That is the general impression people have acquired -- or have been given -- that John Kennedy was merely just another escalating President and that Lyndon Johnson was simply carrying on what Eisenhower and Kennedy did. The evidence showing that Kennedy was an anti-war president and that he refused to escalate in Viet Nam -- even against the pressure of the Joint Chiefs -- is quite solid and irrefutable. However, you have to look at 1963 and 1964 research materials to find this.

In recent years that bit of history has been re-written. One after the other the columnists refer to Kennedy as being -- with regard to Viet Nam -- just an early Johnson. Johnson, these people seem to believe, was merely carrying on. Even well informed commentators such as Eric Sevareid now seem to take that for granted.

Recently I researched that point -- that crucial point -- again. The record is explicit and clear -- that Kennedy was stubbornly blocking any further expansion in Indo-China, that plans even were under way -- not to send a half million more troops -- but to bring home the advisors we had over there.

My thought is this. We can assume that there will be attacks on the book from some quarters. This is most likely the only area left to attack because the footnotes, as you know, were confirmed separately by an objective reviewer. (Even good material was discarded when there was the slightest question about it). The

June 26, 1970

Mr. Arthur Fields

predictable avenue of attack will be to have a Warren Commission "critic" who is really government connected (most of the early ones are, believe it or not) to do the review. Or the book review can be done by a political commentator who is presented as a close observer of foreign policy for many years (e.g., Joseph Alsop). The theme, of course, would be that "this is all very interesting, Mr. Garrison, but you have not done your homework. Being a District Attorney is one thing and being competent to comment on our foreign policy is another."

I am sure that you know by now that I have done my homework. Most of our commentators and popular historians have failed to do theirs.

What I had in mind -- because this point is so important -- would be an Appendix ii ("President Kennedy's Opposition to Escalation"). In this Appendix there would be listed -- down to the page number -- the evidence of Kennedy's uncompromising opposition to escalation. The reader could be led to this by an asterisk at the most propitious point so that the footnote numbers are not disturbed.

Or do you think it is sufficiently clear that, following the Cuban missile crisis, Kennedy became distinctly anti-war in his outlook? I don't feel that it is but, in any case, I leave the decision up to you. It would take me no more than a day to do this because I have accumulated most of the relevant research material during the course of writing the book.

Another question: Can there be a dedication page? Or is it too late? If there can be a dedication page is it possible to use the same page for acknowledgements (Sciambra, Salandria, etc.) -- perhaps at the bottom of the page in smaller print?

Sincerely,

JIM GARRISON

JG:sh

cc: Mr. Max Gartenberg

URGENT 1:45 AM EST 11-17-63 HLF

1 PAGE

TO ALL SACS  
FROM DIRECTOR

THREAT TO ASSISINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS TEXAS  
NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO DASH TWENTYTHREE NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE.  
MISC INFORMATION CONCERNING.

INFO HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE BUREAU  
BUREAU HAS ~~DETERMINED~~ DETERMINED THAT A MILITANT  
REVOLUTIONARY GROUP MAY ATTEMPT TO ASSINATED PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY ON HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO DALLAS TEXAS ~~DETERMINED~~  
~~DETERMINED~~ NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO DASH TWENTYTHREE NINETEEN

SIXTYTHREE.

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**D**URING the early morning hours of November 17, 1963, the teletype machine in the FBI office in New Orleans began to rattle away. William S. Walter, a young security clerk, walked over to the machine. Walter was alone in the office. His regular working hours were from midnight until 8:00 a.m. He read the message, which was addressed "To all SACS" (Special Agents in Charge of the various offices of the FBI), and noted that it came from the Bureau "Director," J. Edgar Hoover. The message read "Urgent." Walter read it carefully.

It was headed "Threat to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas Texas November Twenty Two Dash Twenty Three Nineteen Sixty Three. Misc Information Concerning." The short message revealed that the FBI had received information that there might be an attempt to assassinate President Kennedy during his trip to Dallas on November 22 or November 23, 1963. The SACs were instructed to immediately contact all CIs (Criminal Informants), all PCIs (Potential Criminal Informants), and all "logical racial and hate group informants" in order to investigate the threat.

Walter called SAC Maynard, who was charged with the responsibility of running the New Orleans office. Maynard ordered Walter to immediately call the various Special Agents who ran CIs and PCIs. Walter woke up five Special Agents to read the teletype message to them. He then wrote their names upon the face of the teletype. Soon Maynard arrived at the office to take charge. At eight o'clock in the morning Walter left the office.

The response to the teletype demonstrated that the New Orleans office considered the message to be of unusual significance.

Five days later, early in the afternoon, Walter was in a barbershop having his hair cut. A radio broadcast was interrupted with news that the President had just been shot in Dallas. Walter raced back to the FBI office to re-read the teletype. He showed it to various Special Agents and asked, "How could this have happened? We had five days notice!"

Later that day Walter typed a copy of the teletype, and wrote across the face of the copy the names of the five Special Agents he had called on November 17.

Soon after the assassination, an FBI directive ordered the New Orleans office of the Bureau to direct the various agents who had conducted interviews regarding the assassination to examine those reports. The object was to make sure that there were no conflicts with Hoover's public position that Oswald was the lone assassin. All information that might "embarrass the Bureau" was to be deleted from new reports then being prepared for the Warren Commission; the original documents were to be destroyed.

Walter later decided to look at the original teletype again. Alone in the office, he checked the appropriate file drawer and discovered that the teletype had disappeared. The only written proof of its existence was the copy that Walter had made and taken home.

When Senator Richard Schweiker, then a member of the Church Committee, began an inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy in 1975, Walter flew to Washington, D.C. to provide him with the information in his possession. Schweiker's committee subsequently urged that the Senate appoint a committee to conduct a full-scale investigation of the murder.

Walter lives in Louisiana, where he is currently the vice president of a bank. He is prepared to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations regarding the authenticity of the teletype message.

That copy, never before made public, is published here for the first time since it was prepared by Walter on November 22, 1963. ●